



**AGENDA  
FOR HUMANITY**  
5 CORE RESPONSIBILITIES  
24 TRANSFORMATIONS



# **Annual Report on World Humanitarian Summit Commitments - Norwegian Church Aid 2016**



## Stakeholder Information

**Organisation Name**

Norwegian Church Aid

**Organisational Type**

Faith-based Organisation

**City and Country where Headquartered**

Oslo, Norway

**Focal Point Name**

Marita Haakenstad

**Region**

Global

**Twitter ID**

@norwegianchurch



## 1C Remain engaged and invest in stability

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to address root causes of conflict and work to reduce fragility by investing in the development of inclusive, peaceful societies.	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which is comprised of more than 140 faith-based member organizations with very different profiles, focus areas and origins. Many of them are combining development and humanitarian efforts in their portfolio, or being local in the area of operations. One of the objectives for members of the alliance is to use our influence with our constituencies, civil society and Government leaders to promote stability and long-term community reconciliation, strengthen social cohesion and address grievances.

### Achievements at a glance

With ACT, we have started to work jointly on a list of different potential action points which could help the ACT Alliance and their members to work on this commitment. The ACT Advocacy mechanism is currently being reviewed to be more responsive to advocacy needs on the ground, especially in humanitarian crises. This mechanism is expected to facilitate the development of key messages for government and duty bearers, and other stakeholder actions that would be needed to promote stability and long-term community reconciliation, strengthen social cohesion and address grievances.

### How is your organization assessing progress

Currently under review and discussion within the ACT Alliance Secretariat and Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group, of which NCA is part.

### Challenges faced in implementation

At this stage of the implementation process, no significant challenges have yet been encountered.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

During spring 2017 the plan is to set up a clearer road map of the future of implementation. There is already a collection of different ideas to pursue in the direction, which include to:

- Further pilot ACT Alliance's humanitarian advocacy tool (co-facilitated by NCA)
- Improve relevant training material, such as developing a capacity building module on humanitarian advocacy (with NCA involvement)

### Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives

#### Keywords

- Humanitarian principles  Religious engagement

#### Agenda for Humanity

- 1B - Act early  1D - Develop solutions with and for people



## 1D Develop solutions with and for people

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid will use its influence with constituencies, civil society and government leaders to promote stability and long-term community reconciliation, strengthen social cohesion and address grievances.	Advocacy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which is comprised of more than 140 faith-based member organizations with very different profiles, focus areas and origins. Many of them are combining development and humanitarian efforts in their portfolio, or being local in the area of operations. One of the objectives for NCA and the members of the alliance is to use our influence with our constituencies, civil society and Government leaders to promote stability and long-term community reconciliation, strengthen social cohesion and address grievances.

### Achievements at a glance

We have started to work jointly on a list of different potential action points which could help the ACT Alliance and their members to work on these commitments. A pilot with NCA and other ACT Alliance members was done of the ACT Alliance advocacy alert mechanism after Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in late 2016. This experience will help shape further action points.

### How is your organization assessing progress

Currently under review and discussion within the ACT Alliance Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group.

### Challenges faced in implementation

At this stage of the implementation process, no important challenges have yet been identified.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

During spring 2017, we are planning to set up a clearer road map of the future of the implementation under the aegis of the ACT Alliance. There is already a collection of different ideas to pursue in the direction, which include to:

- Further pilot ACT Alliance's humanitarian advocacy tool
- Improve relevant training material, such as developing a capacity building module on humanitarian advocacy

### Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives

#### Keywords

- People-centred approach                       Religious engagement

#### Specific Initiatives

- Charter for Change



## 2B Ensure full access to and protection of the humanitarian and medical missions

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid will reinforce and highlight through its work the integral role of faith-based responders in rapid and unimpeded access to communities in need by exhibiting full respect for the humanitarian principles. It will do this by engaging local and national partner organisations in information sharing, awareness raising and capacity building on the practical application of the guiding principles and ensuring complete and contextualized integration of the humanitarian principles into all Norwegian Church Aid's humanitarian responses.	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to ensure all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Commit to promote and enhance efforts to respect and protect medical personnel, transports and facilities, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and assets against attacks, threats or other violent acts.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which is comprised of more than 140 member faith-based organizations with very different profiles, focus areas and origins. Many of them are combining development and humanitarian efforts in their portfolio, or being local in the area of operations. NCA is a multi-mandate organisation, engaged in both long-term development work and humanitarian response. The humanitarian principles are enshrined as an integral of our humanitarian strategy, and guide our relationships with local and national partners.

### Achievements at a glance

With ACT Alliance, we have started to work jointly on a list of different potential action points which could help the ACT Alliance and their members to work on this commitment. A general review of the ACT Humanitarian Response Mechanism, with significant NCA involvement, was completed in 2016, and it included a stronger reflection of humanitarian principles and accountability vis-a-vis the recognition of the important role of faith-based actors in delivering effective humanitarian response.

### How is your organization assessing progress

Currently under review and discussion within the ACT Alliance Secretariat and Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group, which NCA is part of.

### Challenges faced in implementation

At this stage of the implementation process, no significant challenges have been identified.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

NCA will support the ACT Secretariat to implement the global roll-out of the revised ACT humanitarian response mechanism for members beginning June 2017. This process is expected to strengthen the application of humanitarian principles and accountability in our work, as well as the integration of the unique advantages of faith-based organisations in delivering humanitarian response. In Spring 2017, the Alliance is planning to set a road map of the future of implementation. This will include the following directions: improvement of relevant training material, creation of an online exchange for discussion and reflection on specific issues; and an



opinion paper on faith-based organizations and humanitarian principles

**Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives**

**Keywords**

- Humanitarian principles
- Religious engagement

**Agenda for Humanity**

- 2D - Take concrete steps to improve compliance and accountability



## 2C Speak out on violations

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
In an expression of global solidarity with poor and marginalized people, Norwegian Church Aid will amplify the voices that promote human rights and international humanitarian law and speak out against social and structural injustice, such as gender inequality and discriminative practices.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to speak out and systematically condemn serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and to take concrete steps to ensure accountability of perpetrators when these acts amount to crimes under international law.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which is comprised of more than 140 faith-based member organizations with very different profiles, focus areas and origins. Many of them are combining development and humanitarian efforts in their portfolio, or being local in the area of operations. One of the objectives for members of the alliance is to use our influence with our constituencies, civil society and Government leaders to speak out against social and structural injustice.

### Achievements at a glance

A pilot, co-facilitated by NCA and Christian Aid, was done of the ACT Alliance urgent advocacy call mechanism after Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in late 2016. This experience will help shape further action points. Rights-based advocacy is an integrated part of all of NCA's work in both development and humanitarian work, as enshrined in NCA's global strategy 'Faith in Action', and in our advocacy and humanitarian strategies. NCA has a dedicated Humanitarian Advocacy Advisor at Head Office in Oslo.

### How is your organization assessing progress

The piloting of the ACT urgent advocacy call mechanism provided valuable learning points for continued development of mechanisms available to NCA and ACT by which to amplify the voices that promote human rights and international humanitarian law and speak out against social and structural injustice.

### Challenges faced in implementation

At this stage of the implementation process, no important challenges have yet been identified.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

In 2017, NCA will take an active role in supporting ACT to develop its Humanitarian Advocacy Tool, and in rolling it out to the membership. NCA will continue to advocate for the rights of poor and marginalised people, and amplify the voices that promote human rights and international humanitarian law and speak out against social and structural injustice, towards duty-bearers in Norway and globally. We will support our local and national partners in their advocacy efforts towards national duty-bearers.

### Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives

#### Keywords

Humanitarian principles

People-centred approach

Religious engagement



## Agenda for Humanity

1D - Develop solutions with and for people





## 2D Take concrete steps to improve compliance and accountability

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid commits to adopt the IASC statement on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the individual agency level.	Policy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to promote and enhance respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and refugee law, where applicable.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Commit to speak out and systematically condemn serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and to take concrete steps to ensure accountability of perpetrators when these acts amount to crimes under international law.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Leave No One Behind

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA's Global Advocacy Strategy seeks to reduce inequality and achieve gender justice through the enactment of gender progressive policies and the enhancement of female representation in strategic decision-making positions. Meanwhile, it participates in preventing crisis by enhancing women and youth's voices in peace processes and by promoting their inclusion in the planning and implementation of peacebuilding policies and activities.

### Achievements at a glance

The ACT Alliance, which NCA is a founding member of, has endorsed the IASC statement on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. By extension, NCA has adopted the statement. All NCA employees sign on the ACT Alliance Code of Conduct, which refers to the United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin 2003/13, 9 October 2003; Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Code of Conduct is also attached to partnership agreements.

### How is your organization assessing progress

NCA's alert and complaints system allows all Norwegian Church Aid staff to report suspicion of or actual breaches of the ACT Code of Conduct, including on sexual abuse and abuse. NCA is certified as a member of the Core Humanitarian Standards, and is committed to provide communities and people affected by crisis access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints.

### Challenges faced in implementation

Nothing to report for 2016.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

In 2017, NCA will ensure that all our country offices have complaints mechanisms, developed with local/national partners, and communities and people affected by crisis, in place.



**Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives**

**Keywords**

- Accountability to affected people       Gender

**Agenda for Humanity**

- 1D - Develop solutions with and for people       3D - Empower and protect women and girls



## 4A Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid will continue to demonstrate, learn from, identify and share best practice in local-national-international partnerships, in line with the Principles of Partnership, that is inherent in its vision and working practices and that of the ACT Alliance.	Partnership	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Norwegian Church Aid will increase the proportion of its humanitarian investment that goes to cash transfer programming. Before providing in-kind inputs, it will ask ourselves whether cash would work in this context. It will share learning across the organisation and with our ACT Alliance partner organisations on best practice in cash approaches, and increase capacity-building on cash for local and national members.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Norwegian Church Aid commits to make sustained funding conditional on the systematic collection of feedback from affected people on the quality and utility of humanitarian programmes.	Financial	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Norwegian Church Aid commits to establishing a common approach to providing information to affected people and collecting, aggregating and analysing feedback from communities to influence decision-making processes at strategic and operational levels.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Norwegian Church Aid commits to adopt the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and International Aid Transparency Initiative Standard, with clear benchmarks for achieving these through the CHS Alliance self-assessment tool.	Policy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes. To achieve this, commit to the following: a) Anticipate, Do Not Wait: to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people. b) Reinforce, Do Not Replace: to support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, capacity strengthening and response systems, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms wherever possible. c) Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles. d) Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need



Commit to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which has wanted to increase substantially cash transfer programming in order to support people agency and strengthen local structures and resources. ACT Alliance and NCA wanted to see a change in policy where cash is seen as the preferred option by donors, decision makers and implementing organizations. In practice we want to see in-kind inputs to be replaced by cash if feasible in the given context, and we want to be a learning community where we actively contribute to new knowledge, capacities and best practices on cash transfer programming.

### Achievements at a glance

ACT Alliance members, including NCA, have continued to promote and support cash transfer programming in their humanitarian interventions. ACT members have carried out a number of studies, project and program evaluations to assess outcomes and learning. In the revised ACT humanitarian response mechanism, we have integrated cash transfers as one of the main modes of delivery. This element will be followed-through in subsequent capacity building activities with staff, members and country forums.

### How is your organization assessing progress

The ACT Secretariat and Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group, which NCA is part of, will seek to integrate cash programming in monitoring and evaluation systems for ACT Appeals and Rapid Response Funds. ACT will develop a 2016 baseline to enable tracking of progress. Several ACT Alliance members will also report to IATI and directly or indirectly to Grand Bargain on these developments.

### Challenges faced in implementation

No challenges faced in 2016.

### Next step to advance implementation in 2017

Participation in 2017 in a Norad/NMFA-led mapping of Norwegian NGOs experiences with cash programming. Development of a specific NCA policy on cash programming.

### Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives

#### Keywords

Cash

#### Specific Initiatives

Grand Bargain



## 4B Anticipate, do not wait, for crises

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid will increase the proportion of its humanitarian investment that goes to community preparedness, prevention and resilience, with a target that over 10% of its programming should be invested in emergency preparedness and risk reduction.	Financial	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Norwegian Church Aid will use the extraordinary reach and trust of its network of faith-based and church organizations in the ACT Alliance to raise disaster risk reduction awareness at grassroots level, including in hard-to-reach locations, by influencing local leadership and educating community members.	Advocacy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes. To achieve this, commit to the following: a) Anticipate, Do Not Wait: to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people. b) Reinforce, Do Not Replace: to support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, capacity strengthening and response systems, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms wherever possible. c) Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles. d) Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programs of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which has a common understanding that efforts need to be made to strengthen the resilience of affected communities as well as strengthening local capacities. This will be achieved by reforming the ACT Rapid Response Fund (RRF) so that it is targeted exclusively for national/local members and incentivizes greater investment in emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience. The aim is to enable first responders to conduct immediate emergency response programming focused on saving lives, over a three month time-frame and provide additional funding to members having early preparedness and



response plans.

### **Achievements at a glance**

A revised ACT RRF policy was drafted and approved, including by NCA, which states the following:

- Only national ACT members are eligible for rapid response funds
- Forums/members with up-to-date Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) are eligible for additional funding and projects can have longer lifespans
- RRF funds can also be used to cover the cost of replenishment of a member's in-country stocks which were used in the emergency response

The RRF template & process/protocol were revised and streamlined so as to be more accessible to local/national and less time-consuming.

### **How is your organization assessing progress**

Currently under review and discussion within the ACT Alliance Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group, which NCA is part of.

### **Challenges faced in implementation**

No significant challenges to report at this point in time.

### **Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

NCA is working systematically on emergency preparedness with our country offices, local and national partners and with national and regional ACT forums. All of our country offices are supposed to have Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) developed together with partner organisations. In 2017, the Head Office will support 4-5 country offices, and their local partners, to revise and strengthen their EPRPs.

### **Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives**

#### **Keywords**

- Disaster Risk Reduction

#### **Agenda for Humanity**

- 4A - Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems     5A - Invest in local capacities     5B - Invest according to risk

## 5A Invest in local capacities

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
By May 2018, Norwegian Church Aid will actively contribute to revise and reform the ACT Alliance humanitarian response mechanisms in line with the direction set out in the UN Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity, aiming to strengthen local capacities by reforming the ACT Rapid Response Fund so that it is targeted exclusively for national and local members and that it incentivizes greater investment in emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience.	Operational	Invest in Humanity
By May 2018, Norwegian Church Aid will significantly increase the proportion of its humanitarian funding that goes directly to local and national partners for humanitarian response and emergency preparedness. It will seek to transparently report on this amount.	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Norwegian Church Aid commits to supporting initiatives that provide easier and better access to resources for local and national partner organisations, particularly where they are first and frontline responders.	Financial	Invest in Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA and the ACT Alliance wanted to achieve an actual change in both policy, behavior AND most importantly practice in terms of more resources and more decision making power available directly to community- and locally-led crisis responses. NCA have long sought to empower locally-led crisis responses. This is reflected in policy documents and guidance. In line with the outcomes of the Grand Bargain, NCA and the ACT Alliance committed itself to streamlining and harmonizing requirements for partners; which includes a commitment to not ask more from local and national members than what donors ask of funding members.

### Achievements at a glance

NCA and 8 other ACT members have signed the Charter 4 Change (C4C) commitments in favor of increased locally-led responses as either signatories or endorsers. ACT C4C members are in the process of seeking to publicize the initiative within ACT. ACT revised the rules of its Rapid Response Fund so that only national members are eligible, as a contribution to the Grand Bargain agenda. The tools of ACT's humanitarian response mechanism were revised to reduce workload on reporting for local and national members. The reporting requirements draw from the initiative "less paper, more aid" and mirror GPPI's "10 + 3" reporting in that they are only required to report information commonly required by back donors in a very concise manner. NCA supports this work.

### How is your organization assessing progress

ACT Alliance members are among the driving forces in the first individual and collective C4C reporting in May 2017 and to be followed up in the years to come. Through C4C, ACT members are also participating in the "localization working group", PACT and other Grand Bargain and WHS related monitoring/ tracking of these commitments. NCA is co-lead of the advocacy working group on promoting local actors towards donors within C4C.



### **Challenges faced in implementation**

The biggest challenge faced so far is the reluctance harbored by donors and many INGO's/UN agencies to truly relinquish decision making power over programmatic priorities and real control over financial resources to locally led crisis responses. Despite the rhetorical commitments (including WHS and Grand Bargain) most donors and international humanitarian actors appear reluctant to accept that a more effective, holistic and locally-led crisis response presupposes that international actors reduce their role, size and share in decision making over the actual programming and project activities if locally-led/ frontline-led responses are ever to flourish.

### **Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

NCA and the ACT Alliance will continue to advocate for more ACT and non-ACT members to engage in C4C and the WHS/GB processes on localization. NCA will showcase best practice examples at the Joint Learning Initiative Localization and Faith Conference in Sri Lanka in October. We will engage proactively with the Switzerland-IFRC Grand Bargain workstream on localization to promote our perspectives through our networks in ACT, VOICE, ICVA and C4C. NCA is working to modify our own finance systems to be able to more accurately track funding flows going to local and national organisations.

### **If you had one message for the annual report on what is most needed to advance the transformation Invest in local capacities , what would it be**

International humanitarian actors including donors need to accept that a more effective, holistic and locally-led crisis response presupposes that they (international actors) gradually reduce their role, size and share in decision making over the actual programming and project activities if locally-led/frontline-led responses are ever to flourish.

### **Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives**

#### **Keywords**

People-centred approach

#### **Specific Initiatives**

Charter for Change

Grand Bargain

#### **Agenda for Humanity**

4A - Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems  4B - Anticipate, do not wait, for crises





## 5E Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency

### Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Norwegian Church Aid commits to streamline and harmonize reporting requirements for partners, in line with the expected outcomes of the Grand Bargain. This specifically includes a commitment to not ask more from local and national organisations than what donors ask of us.	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Norwegian Church Aid commits to adopt the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and International Aid Transparency Initiative Standard, with clear benchmarks for achieving these through the CHS Alliance self-assessment tool.	Policy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

### Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.	Invest in Humanity

### Where did your organization stand on these issues prior to making these commitments

NCA is a member of the ACT Alliance, which wanted to achieve an actual change in both policy, behavior AND most importantly practice in terms more resources and more decision making power available directly to community- and locally-led crisis responses. We have for decades sought to empower locally-led crisis responses. In line with the outcomes of the Grand Bargain, the ACT Alliance and NCA committed themselves to streamlining and harmonizing requirements for partners; which includes a commitment to not ask more from local and national members than what donors ask of funding members.

### Achievements at a glance

NCA and 8 other ACT members have signed the Charter 4 Change (C4C) commitments in favor of increased locally-led responses as either signatories or endorsers. ACT C4C members are in the process of seeking to publicize the initiative within ACT. NCA has supported ACT to revise the rules of its Rapid Response Fund so that only national members are eligible, as contribution to the Grand Bargain agenda. The tools of ACT's humanitarian response mechanism were revised to reduce workload on reporting for local and national members. The reporting requirements draw from the initiative "less paper, more aid" and mirror GPPI's "10 + 3" reporting in that they are only required to report information commonly required by back donors in a very concise manner. NCA supports this work.

### How is your organization assessing progress

NCA and ACT Alliance members are among the driving forces in the first individual and collective C4C reporting in May 2017 and to be followed up in the years to come. Through C4C, NCA and ACT members are also participating in the "localization working group", PACT and other Grand Bargain and WHS related monitoring/ tracking of these commitments. NCA will support ACT to investigate the best way to ensure that in future ACT appeals are well-positioned to automatically track amount of funding channeled through local actors.

### Challenges faced in implementation



The biggest challenge faced so far is the reluctance harbored by donors and many INGO's/UN agencies to truly relinquish decision making power over programmatic priorities and real control over financial resources to locally led crisis responses. Despite the rhetorical commitments (including WHS and Grand Bargain) most donors and international humanitarian actors appear reluctant to accept that a more effective, holistic and locally-led crisis response presupposes that international actors reduce their role, size and share in decision making over the actual programming and project activities if locally-led/ frontline-led responses are ever to flourish.

### **Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

NCA will continue to engage in C4C and the WHS/GB processes on localization. NCA with ACT members will showcase best practice examples at the Joint Learning Initiative Localization and Faith Conference in Sri Lanka in October. We will engage proactively with the Switzerland-IFRC Grand Bargain workstream on localization to promote our perspectives, through our networks in ACT, ICVA, VOICE and C4C.

### **If you had one message for the annual report on what is most needed to advance the transformation Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency , what would it be**

International humanitarian actors including donors need to accept that a more effective, holistic and locally-led crisis response presupposes that they (international actors) gradually reduce their role, size and share in decision making over the actual programming and project activities if locally-led/frontline-led responses are ever to flourish.

### **Tag with other relevant transformations, keywords, initiatives**

#### **Keywords**

People-centred approach

#### **Specific Initiatives**

Charter for Change

Grand Bargain

#### **Agenda for Humanity**

4A - Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems  5A - Invest in local capacities and local systems